

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 HA-05 AID-05 SS-15 SP-02 /065 W
-----077742 300614Z /23

R 281914Z JUN OUI
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8637
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3310

GUATEMALA FOR IESCA (AL WARREN)

STATE ALSO FOR LA/MRSD (GEORGE PHILLIPS)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ES
SUBJECT: UNION COMUNAL SALVADORENA: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNP L
(CEN) MEETS WITH AMBASSADOR

SUMMARY. IN A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR ON JUNE 26, UNION
COMUNAL SALVADORENA (UCS) SECRETARY-GENERAL VIERA AND OTHER
MEMBERS OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (CEN) OUTLINED PROBLEMS
UCS HAS BEEN HAVING WITH GOES. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT IN HIS
FUTURE CONTACTS WITH THE GOES OFFICIALS CONCERNED, HE WOULD
INQUIRE ABOUT MATTERS RAISED AT MEETING. HE STATED THAT
EMBASSY WOULD ALSO OBSERVE ITS EFFORTS TO GET ANONNITE

GOES REPLY ON THE QUESTION OF AIFLD'S REENTRY INTO EL
SALVADOR. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING A CALL ON THE EMBASSY ON MONDAY, JUNE 26, NINE
MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MET WITH THE
AMBASSADOR, ADCM AND LABOR OFFICER ALSO ATTENDED.
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U.C.TEAM YETQUETARY-GENERAL VIERA AND THE OTHER
MEMBERS OF THE C.E.N. HAD ASKED FOR THE MEETING
IN ORDER TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS THEY SAID THE U.C. .
HAS BEEN HAVING WITH THE GOES.

2. VIERA STATED THAT THE GOES-RUN BANCO DE FOMENTO

AGROPECUARIO (BFA) HAD NOT YET APPROVED CREDITS

FOR THE CO-OPERATIVES OF "GUAJOYO," "LOS APOYOS," AND "LA CONCORDIA." HE MAINTAINED THAT THE CREDITS (FOR SEED, FERTILIZER, AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, ETC.) SHOULD HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING LAST MONTH. HE ALLEGED THAT THE CREDITS HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY HELD UP BY THE GOVERNMENT SO THAT THESE CO-OPERATIVES WOULD FAIL AND THE GOES COULD THEN SAY THAT "CAMPESESINOS" WERE NOT CAPABLE OF RUNNING THEIR OWN AFFAIRS. VIERA ALSO ALLEGED THAT THE GOES-1

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SALVADORAN AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION INSTITUTE (ISTA) WAS INTERESTED IN TAKING OVER "GUAJOYO" AND "LOS APOYOS." HE ADDED THAT THE BFA HAD NOT HELD UP CREDITS FOR OTHER U.C.S. CO-OPERATIVES, SUCH AS SAN JACINTO, BUT THAT IN THE CASE OF THE THREE AFFECTED CO-OPERATIVES, NO CULTIVATION COULD NOW BE INITIATED, THUS MAKING 1978 A "LOST YEAR."

3. VIERA STATED THAT ROSALES, ONE OF THREE GOES ADVISORS ASSIGNED TO THE U.C.S., HAD BEEN TRYING FOR SEVERAL WEEKS TO SEE THE PRESIDENT OF THE BFA AND GENERAL AGREDA, PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT ROMERO, IN ORDER TO CLEAR UP THE PROBLEM. HE SAID ROSALES HAD HAD NO LUCK IN THIS EFFORT BUT PERSONALLY GAVE HIM AND THE OTHER

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TWO GOES ADVISORS CREDIT FOR TRYING TO HELP THE UCS.

4. A SECOND PROBLEM THAT VIERA REFERRED TO WAS THE SITUATION OF FOUR U.C.S. MEMBERS WHO HAD BEEN HELD IN JAIL FOR FOUR MONTHS DUE TO CIVIL SUIT REOPENED TWO LANDHOLDERS OVER WHICH OF THE TWO HELD LEGAL TITLE TO LAND WHICH THE U.C.S. CO-OPERATIVE INVOLVED ("LA CONCORDIA," LOCATED IN DEPARTMENT OF LA PAZ) HAD LEASED ON BASIS OF A WRITTEN THREE-YEAR CONTRACT. (A PPSACE CORPS VOLUNTEER HAD PREVIOUSLY INFORMED LABOR OFFICER OF THIS SITUATION.) THE GOES FOUR MONTHS AGO HAD ASSIGNED A LEGAL ADVISOR TO HXYP U.C.S. MEMBERS BEING HELD IN JAIL BUT VIERA SAID HE HAD QUIT AND HAD NOT BEEN REPLACED. HE STATED THAT THUS FAR AGO ATTEMPTS BY U.C. S. TO PROCURE RELEASE OF PRISONERS HAD FAILED.

5. VIERA ALLEGED THAT THERE HAD BEEN HARASSMENT OF HIM AND OTHER MEMBERS OF C.E.N. BY AGENTS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD, FOR REASONS THEY HAD NOT YET

BEEGIIABLE TO ASCERTAIN. FINALLY, VIERA STATED THAT THUS FAR C.E.N. HAD RECEIVED NO REPLY TO THE REQUEST IT MADE LAST MARCH FOR AMVAUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT ROMERO TO ASK FOR THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AIFLD OFFICE IN EL SALVADOR. HE SAID THAT THE HELP OF AIFLD WAS URGENTLY NEEDED IN ORDER TO HELP THE U.C.S. OVERCOME ITS PROBLEMS OF ACCOUNTING AND INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION. GENERAL TENOR OF REMARKS OF VIERA AND OTHER C.E.N. MEMBERS WAS THAT, IN THEIR VIEW, THE GOES WAS DELIBERATELY TRYING TO UNDERMINE THE U.C.S. AS A VIABLE CO-OPERATIVE ORGANIZATION.

6. IN REPLY TO THE PRESENTATION MADE BY VIERA AND THE OTHER C.E.N. MEMBERS, THE AMBASSADOR SAID
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THAT THE SITUATION OUTLINED BY THEM SEEMED ONE APPROACHING "NEAR-DESPERATION". AMBASSADOR STATED THAT IN HIS FUTURE CONTACTS WITH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE RUTILIO AGUILERA AND OTHER MINISTERS, HE WOULD INQUIRE ABOUT THE MATTERS THAT HAD BEEN RAISED AT THE MEETING.

7. WITH RESPECT TO AIFLD'S EFFORTS TO RE-ENTER EL SALVADOR, THE AMBASSADOR RECALLED MICHAEL HAMMER'S VISIT LAST FEBRUARY-MARCH (SAN SALVADOR 1345), THE NUMEROUS MEETINGS HAMMER HAD HELD WITH HIGH GOES OFFICIALS, AND THE CONCESSIONS HAMMER HAD MADE TO TRY TO MEET PAST SALVADORAN OBJECTIONS TO AIFLD'S ACTIVITIES. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT DESPITE THESE EFFORTS, HAMMER HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET A DEFINITE GOES REPLY ON THE AIFLD PROGRAM PROPOSALS FOR EL SALVADOR AND NEITHER HAD THE EMBASSY, DESPITE NUMEROUS ATTEMPTS BY EMBOFFS TO DO SO. HE STATED THAT THE EMBASSY COULD PERSEVERE IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO GET A DEFINITE GOES REPLY AND WOULD INFORM WASHINGTON OF THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE U.C.S.

8. THE AMBASSADOR THANKED VIERA AND THE OTHER C.E.N. MEMBERS FOR HAVING COME AND SAID HE HOPED TO HAVE ANOTHER MEETING WITH THEM IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IN THE MEANTIME, HE ASKED THEM TO KEEP IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH ADCM AND LABOR OFFICER CONCERNING ANY PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT ARISE IN WHICH THE EMBASSY COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANS03310
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780270-0217
Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2172897
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 970819
Subject: UNION COMUNAL SALVADORENA: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (CEN) MEETS WITH AMBASSADOR
TAGS: ELAB, ES
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/93c0c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014